

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | 10/608,193 | NIKIEL ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Hanh B. Thai | 2163 |

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 8/25/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 and 22-36.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None. of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

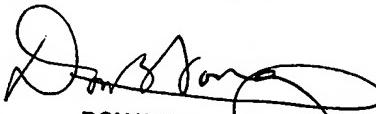
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



DON WONG
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendment filed August 25, 2006. Claims 1-20 and 22-36 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed August 25, 2006, with respect to claims 1-20 and 22-36 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Treymayne M. Norris (Reg. No.58,683) on November 9, 2006.

Please rewrite claims 1, 9 and 17 as below:

Claim 1. A database storage system for providing storage for metadata sets, each metadata set related to a file uploaded by a user over a network, the database storage system comprising:

a plurality of database storage facilities for storing the metadata sets, each database storage facility comprising at least two logically partitioned sections, wherein the file is directed to at least one alternate database storage facility and at least one database storage facility stores a first original metadata set in one logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility and stores a copy of a second original metadata set, the second original metadata

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set located in another database storage facility, in another logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility, such that storing the first original metadata set and the copy of the second original metadata set is based on an user identifier; and

a file management component for managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one logically partitioned section and in more than one database storage facility.

Claim 9. A method for providing storage for metadata sets for multiple users, each metadata set related to a file uploaded by a user over a network, the method comprising:
dividing a plurality of database storage facilities into at least two logically partitioned sections;

storing an original metadata set in a logically partitioned section of at least one of the plurality of database storage facilities, wherein storing the original metadata set is based on an user identifier;

storing a copy of an original metadata set located in another database storage facility of the plurality of database storage facilities in another logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility, wherein storing the copy of the original metadata set located in the another database storage facility is based on the user identifier; and

managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one logically partitioned section and in more than one database storage facility; facility; and
directing the file to an alternate database storage facility.

Claim 17. A network storage system for providing storage space for multiple users, the system comprising:

a file uploading component for uploading an image file from each user to the storage system, and for deriving an image metadata set related to the uploaded image file;

a plurality of database storage facilities for storing each image metadata set, each database storage facility including at least two logically partitioned sections, wherein the image file is directed to at least one alternate database storage facility and at least one database storage facility stores a first original image metadata set in one logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility and stores a copy of a second original image metadata set, the second original image metadata set located in another database storage facility, in another logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility, such that storing the first original image metadata set and the copy of the second original image metadata set is based on an user identifier; and

a file management component for managing data storage in order to store each image metadata set in more than one logically partitioned section and in more than one database storage facility, and for directing the image file to an image storage facility.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-20 and 22-36 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26 and 36, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed provision "at least one database storage facility stores a first original image metadata set in one logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility and stores a

copy of a second original image metadata set, the second original image metadata set located in another database storage facility, in another logically partitioned section of the at least one database storage facility, such that storing the first original image metadata set and the copy of the second original image metadata set is based on an user identifier" as claimed in conjunction with remaining claims provisions.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Other Prior Art Made of Record

5. 1. Baranovsky et al. (US 5,897,661) disclose logical volume manger and method having enhanced update capability with dynamic allocation of storage and minimal storage of metadata information.
2. Blumenau et al. (US 6,282,602 B1) disclose method and apparatus for manipulating logical objects in a data storage system.
3. Andersen (US 6,865,655 B1) discloses methods and apparatus for backing up and restoring data portions stored in client computer systems.
4. Ofek et al. (US 6,487,561 B1) discloses apparatus and methods for copying, backing up, and restoring data using a backup segment size larger than the storage block size.
5. Davis et al. (US 7,010,144 B1) disclose associating data with images in imaging systems.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Point of Contact

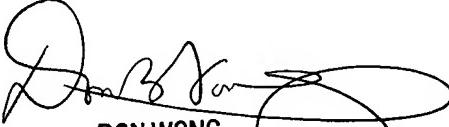
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
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November 8, 2006



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